

ASSAULT ON MR. SUMNER.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF CONNECTICUT,

IN RELATION TO

The assault on Mr. Sumner.

JUNE 14, 1856.—Ordered to be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
General Assembly, May Session, 1856.

The joint select committee on federal relations respectfully submit to the two houses of the general assembly the following statement, based upon the uncontradicted reports of the public press:

On Thursday, the 22d inst., Charles Sumner, a senator of the United States from the State of Massachusetts, was assailed with cowardly and brutal violence, while occupying his seat in the Senate chamber at Washington. In the presence of a portion of his fellow-senators, with no hand, and scarcely a voice raised in his aid, with no opportunity for self-defence, he was stricken down, bleeding and senseless, on the floor of that chamber, and now lies sick and prostrate from the injuries then received.

The avowed object of the outrage was to inflict punishment for words spoken in debate, in the course of the ordinary sessions of the Senate. Its effect has been to deprive a neighboring State of one-half its representation in that body since the day of its occurrence.

In the grave considerations which are suggested by this event, we have not thought it requisite to notice the person by whom the deed was perpetrated, further than to demand his expulsion from the legislative body which he disgraces. Any ruffian may wield a bludgeon. It is a constitution violated, a national honor tarnished, which startle and shock society.

We respectfully recommend the passage of the accompanying resolutions.

By unanimous order of the committee.

O. S. FERRY, *Chairman.*

Whereas a senator of the United States has been assailed with brutal and cowardly violence on the floor of the Senate chamber in the national Capitol, and gross injuries inflicted upon his person, avowedly as a punishment for words spoken in the ordinary course of debate; therefore,

Resolved by this Assembly, That the outrage thus committed is at once a crime against law, a flagrant violation of the constitution, a breach of the privileges of Congress, and a disgrace to the national reputation.

Resolved, That the perpetrator thereof should immediately be expelled from his seat in the House of Representatives in the present Congress, and the members thereof from this State are requested to use their most earnest efforts to accomplish that result.

Resolved, That on this occasion Connecticut sends to Massachusetts fraternal greeting. As our fathers stood side by side at Bunker's hill, when the great conflict for civil and political liberty began, so will their sons stand in the assertion and defence of freedom for thought and speech.

Resolved, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit immediately a copy of the forgoing preamble and resolutions to the governor of Massachusetts, to be laid before the legislature of that State, now in session, and a like copy to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,

Office of Secretary of State.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of record in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said State, at New Haven, this —— day of
[L. S.] May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

N. L. SPERRY,

Secretary of State.